

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): A method of determining a reflective surface of a reflector used in a vehicle lamp, comprising:

a basic condition setting step of setting basic conditions including a light source position in which a light source is disposed, an optical axis that is the direction in which light from said light source is reflected by a reflective surface of a reflector, and a reflective surface outline of said reflective surface as viewed from the direction of said optical axis;

a segmentation condition setting step of setting segmentation conditions including a segmentation axis that is perpendicular to said optical axis and designates the direction in which an inside of said reflective surface outline is segmented into a plurality of reflection regions, and a number of segments into which the inside of said reflective surface outline is segmented along said segmentation axis;

a reflection condition setting step of setting reflection conditions for each of said plurality of reflection regions, including a reflection angle that designates the direction in which light from said light source is reflected by a segment surface that forms said reflective surface in that reflection region in terms of the angle in the direction of said segmentation axis as viewed from said optical axis, and a solid angle condition wherein a solid angle of said segment surface when viewed from said light source is set according to said solid angle condition; and

a reflective surface determining step of, based on said basic conditions, said segmentation conditions and said reflection conditions, segmenting the inside of said reflective surface outline to generate said plurality of reflection regions, creating a surface shape of said segment surface corresponding to each of said plurality of reflection regions, and determining a surface shape determined according to a prescribed light distribution condition for a whole of said reflective surface composed of said segment surfaces, wherein, in said basic condition setting step, a shape of a light-emitting region of said light source is set as one of said basic conditions such that a longitudinal direction thereof is approximately perpendicular to said optical axis, and in said segmentation condition setting step, said segmentation axis is set so as to be approximately perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the shape of said light-emitting region.

2. (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said reflective surface determining step has:

a reflection region generating step of segmenting the inside of said reflective surface outline by a plurality of segmentation lines approximately perpendicular to said optical axis and said segmentation axis to generate said plurality of reflection regions, while referring to said number of segments and said solid angle conditions; and

a segment surface creating step of creating the surface shape of said segment surface corresponding to each of said plurality of reflection regions with the direction of said reflection angle for that reflection region taken as a reflection axis, while referring to said reflection angles.

3. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein, in said reflective surface determining step, the surface shapes of said segment surfaces corresponding to said plurality of reflection regions are created in order from a reflection region on the side of said

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U. S. Application No. 10/076,581

light source towards a reflection region on an outside, or from a reflection region on the outside towards a reflection region on the side of said light source, such that adjacent ones of said segment surfaces are set according to a prescribed connection condition.

4. (cancelled).

5. (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein, in said reflection condition setting step, said reflection angle for each of said plurality of reflection regions is set to be zero or a negative angle as viewed from said optical axis.

6. (canceled).

7. (canceled).

8. (canceled).